



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 8, Number 2 — Summer, 1988

Yes, Virginia, There Is A San Diego Train

At long last, the extended San Diegan service to Santa Barbara is ready to go. The inaugural run will be Sunday, June 26, and the museum is organizing a large group excursion for that first day.

Seats are still available and may be reserved by calling the museum office (964-3540). The cost is \$45 for adults (including a \$3 donation to the museum) and \$21 for children under 12. Departure is at 7:45 a.m., with a 10:10 p.m. return. There are over three hours schedule time in San Diego, with the Amtrak station convenient to downtown and the waterfront.

Museum Endowment Announced

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas have established an endowment for the museum, it was announced at the Annual Dinner. Speaking for the Board of Directors, Jon Bartel said that the Thomases' founding gift consisted of two live-steam locomotives, which will be sold. One of the engines has been appraised at over \$30,000.

In making their gift, the Thomases wrote, "It gives us a great deal of pleasure to create the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund for the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. We feel that the endowment, as a permanent source of income, can become a key ingredient in the perpetuation and growth of the museum. We invite our fellow members and others in your community to join with us in building the endowment to a level where it can really make a difference for the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum and its fine educational and recreational programs."

Bartel said that the Institute has decided to accept the Thomases' challenge to build the endowment and has begun a campaign to increase its level to \$175,000 through donations from members and others. Contributions or pledges of \$500 or more had been received

from George Adams, Eugene Allen, Raymond Baird, Gary Coombs, Barbara Cornish, Anna Dato, Roger Levenson, Kimberly Press, William McNally, Phyllis Olsen, Santa Barbara Research Center, and John Marshall Starr, he said. There has also been one anonymous \$5,000 cash contribution, bringing the total received or pledged to \$32,000 or about 18% of the goal.

Persons interested in contributing to the endowment or those who wish additional information should contact the museum office (964-3540).

Sacramento Excursion Planned

The museum is organizing a fall rail excursion to Sacramento, on the occasion of the 6th annual U.S. National Handcar Races. We will leave Santa Barbara on Thurs., Sept. 15 and return Monday the 19th.

The package includes roundtrip rail fare; four nights lodging; admission to the California State Railroad Museum, including a VIP guided-tour of the museum and restoration shops; and a Sunday brunch cruise on the stern-wheel steamer, Elizabeth Louise. The cost is \$320 per person.

We will again have a team in the handcar competition. Why not join us and help cheer this year's "fearless five" on to victory! This will be the museum's fourth Sacramento trip in the past six years.

Another Steaming Summer Ahead

Preparations are about complete for another summer of train rides on the museum's 1-1/2-inch-gauge railroad. Runs will be the second and fourth Saturdays of July (9th and 23rd), August (13th and 27th), and September (10th and 24th), from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Joe Redford's Toyota is co-sponsoring the 1988 program and complimentary ride tickets will be available at the dealership (5611 Hollister Ave.) starting July 5.

The museum has formed its own group, whose

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DISPATCH QUIZ

... a series of questions — about Goleta Depot, our museum, or railroading in general — for the enjoyment and edification of our readers. Those sending in the most correct answers will be eligible to win a gift membership in their name for a friend or loved one.

Answers to last issue's questions: 1. The Central Pacific could be considered parent of the Southern Pacific; 2. The Goleta Depot Committee received the Golden Deed Award in the year 1984; 3. The freight office clock is never adjusted for Daylight Savings Time, since the railroads only used Standard Time.

Here are this issue's questions:

1. When was Goleta Depot moved to its present site at Los Carneros Park? a) 1981; b) 1982; c) 1983.
2. The slang term "tallowpot" refers to which of the following railroad occupations? a) brakeman; b) conductor; c) engineer.
3. Essay Question: Did the Goleta Depot RR Museum's team in the 1987 U.S. National Handcar Races break the sound barrier?

The Rules: ✉ Write your answers on a plain piece of paper and mail them to: Dispatch Quiz, Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117. To be eligible, entries must be received by June 30, 1988. In case of multiple correct entries, a random drawing will determine the winner.

members have been busy preparing the roadbed and laying track. Participating are Perry Adams (who group members have selected as General Manager), Bonnie Adams, Gene Allen, Alan Cooley, Steve Kramer, Wayne Lloyd, Ralph Moore, Scott Moore, Sue Paré, John Schaller, Bill Stefanek, and Marianne Walker. Others interested in joining may contact Perry (968-2777) or the museum office (964-3540).

Group and School Tours

February was marked by a visit from the So. Calif. Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. The 35 railfans were greeted and shown the museum by John Starr, Christine Negus, Bob Burtness, Bob McNeel, Phyllis Olsen, and Gary Coombs.

Recently, the museum also hosted tour groups from the Santa Barbara YMCA, Monte Vista and Los Olivos Schools, and two classes from La Patera School.

Photo Exhibit Features SP at Surf

A photographic exhibit, "Surf and the Southern Pacific," featuring the work of John Roskowski, will be at the Lompoc Museum June 4 thru July 16. SP operated a combination freight and passenger station at Surf, west of Lompoc, that was similar to Goleta Depot. The Lompoc Museum is located at 200 South H St. Hours are 1-5 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday and 1-4 p.m. weekends (closed Mondays).

Readers may remember Roskowski as the young man who had his wedding reception at Goleta Depot in

1983. John has donated several of his railroad photographs to the Goleta Depot museum.

Gutter Work Marks Major Advance In Depot Restoration

An important and long-awaited step in the restoration of Goleta Depot took place in May with the replacement of the building's old redwood gutters. Most of the original gutters had been lost or were removed during the main restoration effort in 1982, due to their badly deteriorated condition.

The museum had new matching gutter stock milled several years ago in Sacramento, but it remained stored in a local garage until bed-tax funds made available by the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce permitted the installation work to commence. At this writing, the addition of the downspouts is in progress.

Old Phone Is Cranky Again

Another authentic touch has been added to the freight office display, thanks to the efforts of volunteers Pete Langlo and Joe Heumphreus. Joe and Pete were able to devise a way to ring the old crank telephone by means of a remote button.

Historically, the crank phone was used to link depots and section houses in the general area. When the crank on the wooden wall phone was turned, it rang all of the other phones on the network. Ring codes (consisting of short and long rings) were used to identify who you were calling. Goleta Depot's "number" was two long rings followed by two short rings. Of course, anyone could eavesdrop on everyone else's calls.

Joe's and Pete's success makes it possible for the museum docents to demonstrate how it sounded when a call came in to Goleta Depot: Rrrrrring... Rrrrrring... Ring... Ring...

Our crank phone was donated by the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. It was used formerly at the old Surf station.

New Hands-On Display Finished

Restoration has been completed on an antique counter-top balance scale, acquired by the museum about two years ago, which has been made into a simple hands-on exhibit. The accompanying display card invites the museum visitor to find out "How much does the package weigh?" It goes on to tell how the depot

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PORTRAIT OF A MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Eugene Gilbert Allen was born in Rochester, N.Y. in 1921. He studied engineering in college and for many years called Long Island home. He and his bride of 42 years, the former Alma Loeven, have three grown children, Christine, David, and Pattie.

The family moved to this area in 1958, when Gene took the job of experimental shop foreman at Servo-Mechanisms, Inc. Five years later, he went into business for himself, establishing Allen Models, Inc. for the manufacture of miniature live-steam locomotives. Alma is executive director of the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation, where she has been for 14 years.

Gene has been active with the Goleta Valley Railroad Club since 1958, serving three terms as president. He is also an accomplished horseman. Gene and Alma also enjoy travel, theatre, and walks in the company of Charity and Tristin, their pet dogs.

Gene has served as a depot volunteer since 1981. His great knowledge of railroading was especially welcome to the project. He was the depot's first curator and, in 1982, he restored the heavily-vandalized window bay of the depot freight office. The salvage and sale of the bricks from the original depot foundation also was done under Gene's leadership.

He became chairman of the Depot Committee in 1983, serving for over four years. His deepest involvement, however, has come with the museum's two track projects. The full-size track and the portable track for the live-steam train ride both were Gene Allen creations from design through completion.

Today, Gene Allen is Institute Vice-President and serves on the Museum Committee. Recently, he has been instrumental in getting the museum endowment established and in mounting its fundraising campaign.



Eugene Allen

once was important for the shipping and receiving of packages, when the Wells Fargo and Railway Express companies had offices in the stationhouse.

Stove Will Join Kitchen Furnishings

A handsome wood-burning stove has been donated to the museum by Mr. Robert Gorham of Santa Barbara. Originally thought to be a caboose stove, it seems to be of the conventional turn-of-the-century kitchen variety. It will be ideal for the kitchen in the upstairs agent's apartment, when this area is refurbished.

Work Day Report

Recent Saturday work sessions were held on March 26, April 9, and May 8. Several projects were completed or begun, notably the installation of the ladder on the train order-board pole and the painting of the express/baggage cart wheels.

Volunteers included Malcolm Alexander, Gene Allen, Ray Baird, Gene Boswell, Doug and Chaska Conrow, Gary Coombs, Steve Kramer, and Phyllis Olsen.

Museum Featured in Magazines

Recently, two magazines have carried articles about the museum and its programs. Jim Higman and Depot Day were the subject of a piece in the Spring '88 issue of *U.S. Boat & Ship Modeler*, which focused on the display of steam engines that Jim and others (including Gene Allen, Ernest Thomsen, and John Schaller) assemble and share each year during the fall event.

The article describes Depot Day as "an annual bash

we thoroughly recommend for a day in which the whole family will find pleasure." It includes a handsome color photo of Jim and the engine display, with the museum caboose in the background.

The May issue of *Live Steam* carried a story, "Big Gift — Bigger Benefit," on the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund (see page 1). Included were photos of Goleta Depot and one of the two engines the Thomases are donating to the museum.

Goleta Depot also appeared on the May 6 cover of *This Week in Santa Barbara* magazine.

Gratitude Extended for Dispatch Help

Thank you to Susan Lentz for supplying art for use in the *Depot Dispatch*. Thanks also to Robert McNeel for providing questions for the Dispatch Quiz.

Annual Report Available

Copies of the 1987 Annual Report were distributed at the Annual Dinner. The 16-page report devotes three pages to the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, including photos of the live-steam train ride and other museum action. Also contained in the report are complete listings of members and museum volunteers.

Members who haven't received their copies may pick them up at the museum, Wednesday thru Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Asphalt Regatta Report

Another successful Asphalt Regatta fundraiser-marked the spring season. The March 12 event was graced with pleasant weather and good cheer among

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Regatta participants are fresh before grueling ordeal.

those in attendance. Participants included bikers Bill Shinn and The Flyings Shinn, Gene Allen, Steve Kramer, and Bill, Cyrus and Willie McNally; walkers George Adams (whose recent marriage and move to Camarillo has failed to diminish his involvement), Anna Dato, Ron and Christine Negus, Phyllis Olsen, Gary Coombs, and Doug Conrow; and skater Diana Mina. Other fundraisers were Gene Boswell, Marie Harden, and John Starr.

In true Regatta fashion, both Diana and Steve added to their pledge totals *during* the event: Steve met a woman along the way who donated four quarters to the cause, while Diana made a skating stop at her

uncle's house to garner another \$20 for her pledge list.

Helpers on the day included photographer Dave Hieter, who also handled sign-ins; and Hilda Volkman, Kip Kramer, and Stella Kramer, who distributed refreshments along the course. Christine did a great job bringing everything together her first time at the Regatta helm as Events Chair.

A delicious meal followed for all "survivors," featuring Al Volkman's tasty homemade pickles, fried chicken supplied by Ray Baird, and many other delights.

Pledges reached \$5,000. Anna Dato, George Adams, and Steve Kramer were honored at the Annual Dinner as the top adult and youth fundraisers. The money will be used for the museum's live-steam program.

Guadalupe Stop Highlights Rail Trip

May 6 marked the second museum-led school rail field trip in as many years. Participating were 65 children and adults, representing two La Patera School classes and museum staff.

The museum was able to make special arrangements with Amtrak for the northbound Coast Starlight to make an unscheduled stop at Guadalupe to let the group disembark. About 40 minutes later, they were picked up by its southbound counterpart. This was a major improvement over last year's one-way trip to San Luis Obispo, with a charter bus return highlighted by a freeway breakdown!

Another treat for the children was the opportunity to meet Santa Barbara station-agent Toby Henke and learn about her multi-faceted job.

Coming Events

- June 26 (Sunday): San Diego Excursion
- July 4: Stow House Old Fashioned Fourth
- July 9, 23; Aug. 13, 27; Sept. 10, 24: Goleta Depot Steam Railroad operates
- Sept. 15-19: Sacramento Trip and U.S. National Handcar Races
- Oct. 16 (Sunday): Depot Day '88